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THE GROUNDS AND CAUSES

Of the LORD's Wrath WITH SCOTLAND.

Jer. 17. 1. The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, & with the point of a diamond; it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars.

Amos 9. 2. Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down: &c.

Jer. 45. 1. ----- Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be towards this people; cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

Isa. 40. 1. You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

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The GROUND & CAUSES of the LORD's Wrath with this Land.

THAT the LORD hath been, and is at present highly provoked and displeased; and therefore is pleading a Controversy with this Land, cannot but manifestly appear to all, who seriously consider both the Temporal, but especially the Spiritual Judgments and Plagues, which have been, and are inflicted upon us; and which we are this day threatned with. For how many Times and Ways hath the LORD been streching out his Hand, to cut off and destroy us? Sometimes by scarcity and Dearth, near to Famine: Sometimes by abounding Sickness, and frequent and sudden Death, next to Pestilence: As also, what Intestine Commotions, Heart-burnings and Animolities are among us? Which plainly declare, That the LORD has divided us in his Anger. And how many of the eminently Godly, were not only formerly, but even at present, taken away by Death? And have once and again been, and yet are threatned with Invasion, and the Sword of a foreign Enemy; yea, not only so (but which is most lamentable

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lamentable of all) hath not the LORD in a
great Measure withdrawn his gracious presence
both from publick Ordinances, and from private
Duties? So that even these who have had near
Access to, and Communion with Him in Ordi-
nances, are now walking in Darkness, having no
Light, seeking, but many times not finding Him;
as He has been found of them heretofore. These
with many other sad Symptoms and Evidences
of the Lord's Wrath and Displeasure with us,
do call aloud to Persons of all Ranks, but espe-
cially to the truly Godly, to consider their Ways,
and diligently to search out, and enquire into
the Causes wherefore the LORD is contending
with us: That being deeply humbled under a
due Sense thereof, we may return again to the
LORD; and flee to the Blood of Christ for Par-
don and Reconciliation, lest he be provoked
to continue further, to execute & inflict threat-
ned and justly deserved Judgments upon us.

Wherefore among the many things, that may
be looked upon, as the Sins of this Generation,
and the Causes of the LORD's Wrath, these few
following are offered to the serious Considera-
tion of the Godly, for Prayer throw the Land.

1. The abounding of, and Connivance at the
pernicious and wicked Principles of Atheists,
Deists, Quakers and other such hellish Notions
and Errors, whereby the generality of the Youth,
especially of the Gentry and Nobility, are sadly
corrupted and perverted to their Ruine.

2. The abounding of the gross Ignorance of
GOD and Christ, and the Way of Salvation
through Him; notwithstanding of the plentiful
Means of Knowledge we are privileged with.

3. The reigning and prevailing Power of Unbelief (and which follows thereupon) the great and manifest Contempt of the Gospel; together with the slighting and profaning of the Ordinances and Institutions of Christ, particularly of the Sacrament of the LORD's Supper, by the rash Approaches, and want of due Care, in admitting of unfit Persons thereto in many Places.

4. The lamentable Decay of true Piety and Godliness, the Unfruitfulness and Unsuccessfulness of the Gospel; together with the great Hypocrisie and Formality in Religion, and the resting satisfied with the external Performances of Duties; so that few are at Pains to be acquainted with the Love, Power and Life of Religion.

5. The untender and unwatchful Conversations, the Covetousness and worldly Mindedness of Persons of all Ranks: Yea, not a few, who both by their Profession, and Stations in the World, are obliged to be exemplary to others *as Hee-goats before the Flock*, offend in this.

6. Our horrid Unthankfulness, Misimprovement and Forgetfulness of the signal and remarkable, both publick, private and personal Mercies and Deliverances; which are too many here to be enumerated.

7. The abounding Profanity of all Ranks, overspreading the Land: All having corrupted their Ways, being sadly chargeable with Idleness, Vanity of Apparel, Sensuality and Uncleanliness of all Sorts, Swearing, Lying, Drunkenness, Profanation of the LORD's Day, and other gross Immoralities, sadly aggravated in many, by the Heaven-daring and hellish Impudence, in avow-

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8. That altho' there be many excellent Laws made against Profanity, yet by the Negligence of those, to whom the Execution of them is committed, in many Places, few or none of them are put in Execution impartially upon all Ranks of Transgressors; so that some few, perhaps of the poorer Sort, are now and then punished, when others of higher Rank, as grossly scandalous, escape free without the least Check.

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9. The little Regard there is had, to the giving and occasioning of Offences, the readiness of many to be offended, when the least Occasion is given, from whence proceeds Divisions, Heart-burnings and Animosities, even among the Godly themselves.

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10. Our deep Security and Stupidity under our Sin and Danger; so that instead of humbling our selves under a sense of our Guilt, and Endeavours of sincere Reformation, we go on incorrigibly in our Sin, notwithstanding of all the Means of Mercy and Judgment the LORD gives us for recovery.

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11. Our Unconcernedness, and want of Sympathy with the Afflictions of our Brethren, the persecuted Protestants abroad, who suffering for Righteousness sake, are *bearing the Burden in the heat of the day.*

12. The great neglect of that necessary and profitable Duty of Christian Fellowship; for Prayer and Christian Conference, for mutual Edification: There being many both in Towns and Country, that are Persons capable to associate themselves into Societies, for that Effect, and have no reasonable Hinderance in their Way,

who yet do indulge themselves in the utter neglect thereof: And many Ministers are too deficient to stir up, and to encourage to this Duty, and to joyn therein, which might both be profitable to themselves and these Societies, for the better regulating of them to Edification.

13. The Want of Zeal, and of a publick Spirit, to witness faithfully for the Cause and Interest of Christ, together with the prevalence of distrustful Fear of Men, and carnal Policy under the false Notion of Prudence and Moderation, whereby many, who had an Occasion to give a publick Testimony against the sins of the time, & to advance and carry on a *Covenanted Work of Reformation*, have instead thereof followed the Counsel of Flesh and Blood, and suffered such Opportunities, particularly at, and several times since the Revolution, to slip: whereby the Reformation of Church, State and Army hath been and is neglected, obstructed and by many condemned; so that Men of corrupt Principles and Practices, whereof many had an eminent Hand in the gross Defections of this Land, under the late unhappy Reigns, and have hitherto given little Evidence of their Sorrow and Repentance, are advanced to Places of publick Trust, both in Church and State, and these who have any thing of a publick Spirit are by many discouraged and reproached.

14. The Magistrates ordinarily, without Consent of the Church, appointing Fasts and Thanksgivings, with the Causes and Diets thereof, which Fasts and Thanksgivings have their proportion'd respect to the Success, as well of the Popish, as of the Protestant Allies, hath been, and

and is still grievous to many in this Church.

15. The not laying seriously to Heart, murthering for, and testifying against the gross Defections, and God-provecking Sins committed in the late Times (which beside many of these already mentioned, that to a Degree reigned and prevailed then) were these following; *Viz.* The publick Association with Malignants, in overturning a whole *Covenanted Work of Reformation*, and introducing and establishing of abominable Prelacy. The condemning and burning of the *Covenants*. The Tyrannical Oppressions and persecutions of the People of GOD. The imposing and paying of Taxes, for suppressing the Gospel. The establishing the Supremacy, where; the Interest of Christ was entirely sacrificed, and made precariously dependent upon the Will and Will of wicked Men. The Accepting of Indulgences, founded upon, and flowing from the Supremacy, and Usurpation of Christ's Privileges. The imposing, and general Complacency with dreadful Conscience racking, and self contradictory Oaths, particularly the Declaration and Test, *Abjuring the Covenants*; together with the sinful fainting Compliance, and sinful silence of many, both Ministers and Professors, at the Time of these Defections; and these directly contrary to former Vows, and Engagements to the LORD; whereof some were never judicially condemned, and the faithful Wrestlings of the People of GOD against them proven; So that to this Day, the tremendous Nature, with the particular Aggravations of Scotland's national Guilt and Apostasies from GOD

GOD, have never been duly, nor distinctly reflected upon, seriously considered, laid to heart and mourned for: But instead thereof, Defections have been by many extenuated & covered, & not particularly enumerated among the Causes of publick Fasts: So that very few of the present Generation know any thing of what we are duly affected with the Sins of our Fathers and thereby the *Covenants*, which once were the Glory of this Land, and which were often broken and burnt in the late Times, are almost buried in Oblivion among us, neither are we careful to transmit to Posterity, what our worthy Ancestors handed down to us, at the Expense of their Blood.

16. To all which is added, the sinful Union; The boundless Toleration; Restoring of Patronages, the Oath of Abjuration, all which are contrary to our Solemn Vows and engagements, and grievous, wound and burdensom to the Conscience of the Godly.

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